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August 15, 2002

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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**Re: EchoStar/DIRECTV merger  
FCC Docket # 01-348**

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV that is currently pending before the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice.

The argument presented by the dissenting few that the merger will result in decreased competition is wholly without merit. As it stands now, satellite television presents consumers with an alternative to cable in the pay television market. Dish Network and DIRECTV, however, essentially duplicate each other's programming. By allowing the merger to proceed, the newly merged EchoStar entity would have access to more bandwidth and other resources, which would result in more competition in the pay television as well as the high-speed Internet access market. Such increased competition can only benefit consumers.

Presently, cable companies control approximately 80% of the pay television market, which is essentially a monopoly. These cable companies work hard to protect their monopoly of the pay television market with the ultimate effect of higher consumer cable bills and limited choices for high-speed Internet access. By giving EchoStar satellite communications the opportunity to compete on a more even footing, the FCC and DoJ will be acting in the best tradition of serving consumers by ensuring healthy competition in the pay television and high-speed Internet access markets.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

 Confirmed

Mr. Shannon M. Bryant Esq. DEC 03 2002

SMB:

Distribution Center